

Chapter 5: SCORP Strategy & Action Plan

This chapter contains the key strategic elements of the Montana SCORP document. The first section contains the goals for outdoor recreation in Montana, based on the research and stakeholder input received by the planning team. The second section provides specific objectives and actions for each goal. The third section is an Implementation Action Table, summarizing the goals, objectives and actions, along with timeline and partner responsibilities for implementation.

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5.1 Goals for Outdoor Recreation in Montana

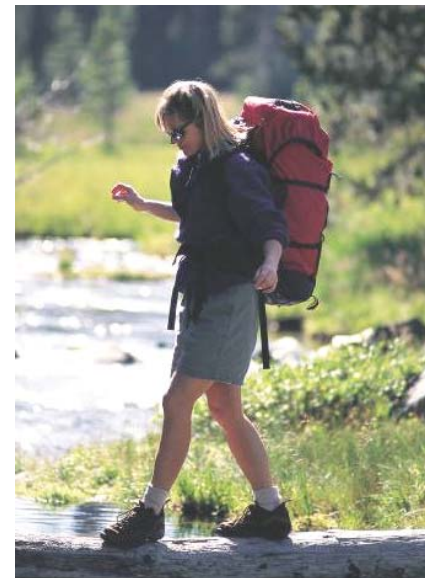
Based on the analysis of top priority issues related to outdoor recreation in Montana, the following ten goals were identified.

1. Increase the quality and/or quantity of local swimming facilities.
2. Enhance parks and local recreation facilities for youth.
3. Continue access to, and maintenance of, rural and backcountry trails and use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine and motorized (OHV, snowmobile) recreation.
4. Increase miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.
5. Enhance access for water-based recreation activities (fishing, boating).
6. Improve access for wildlife-based recreation activities (hunting, wildlife viewing).
7. Implement ADA improvements to recreation facilities and sites where needed.
8. Build awareness of, and participation in, the SCORP process and LWCF program among local and state recreation facility managers and local communities.
9. Create sufficient funding and stable resources to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.
10. Refine and streamline the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) local program and grant process in Montana to be as user friendly as possible.

In the next section, objectives and actions have been identified to achieve each goal. Responsible partners to implement each action, and an implementation timeline, are included in section 5.3.

Chapter 5: SCORP Strategy & Action Plan

- ♦ SCORP Goals
- ♦ Objectives & Actions
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5.2 Outdoor Recreation Objectives and Actions

For each of the ten goals listed above, several specific objectives were identified, with implementation actions for each objective, based on input from Montanans and from outdoor recreation facility managers, and research conducted by the planning team.

Goal 1: Increase the quantity and quality of local swimming facilities.

This goal addresses Issue 1 from the previous chapter. Many existing community swimming pools were constructed with LWCF grants in the 1960s and 1970s, and now present maintenance problems because the facilities are 30-40 years old. In areas of Montana with high population or tourism growth, more capacity of swimming pools is needed to meet growing demand.

Objective 1.1: Upgrade and maintain existing swimming pools in local communities.

Action 1.1.1: Evaluate the provisions of Montana's park district option tax to determine if changes would facilitate better local funding for pools.

Action 1.1.2: Seek private and nonprofit partners (e.g., concessions, competitions, etc.) for funding of pool facilities.

Action 1.1.3: Investigate ways to lengthen seasons of use for community swimming pools.

Objective 1.2: Construct new swimming pools and water parks in local communities where needed.

Action 1.2.1: Evaluate the feasibility of a loan program to assist communities in financing pools.

Action 1.2.2: Provide ADA compliant facilities for therapeutic recreation.

Action 1.2.3: Create public-private-nonprofit partnerships to fund and manage swimming pools.

Goal 2: Enhance parks and local recreation facilities for youth.

Goal 2 addresses Issue 2 from the previous chapter. Youth and people of all ages need recreation facilities to maintain physical and emotional health, as well as to provide positive activities that enhance communities and public safety.

Objective 2.1: Enhance local playfields (baseball, softball, football, soccer, track).

Action 2.1.1: Provide resources to upgrade and maintain playfields (lighting, surfacing, seating).

Action 2.1.2: Develop partnerships for land acquisition and management of playfields.

The Skinny on Skate Parks

- Nationally, skateboarding was voted the #1 recreational activity among teenagers, and it is the 3rd largest activity for participants age 8-18 years
- Skate parks are used by skateboarders, inline skaters and BMX bikers
- The primary user group is boys age 12-16, but skate parks are heavily used by both boys and girls ages 8-18 (at Helena's skate park, users range from age 5 to 60)
- There are 9.5 million skateboarders nationally, 2 million inline skaters and 1 million BMX (trick) bikers
- Skateboarding is a \$3 billion per year industry
- Skateboarding activities are popular because they are unstructured, self-expressive, with no rules, scores, teams, coaches or time clocks, but they promote positive social interaction (older and more skilled skaters often assist and teach younger and less skilled skaters, and share park times)
- Per capita emergency room visits are less for skate parks than for hockey, football, basketball, soccer, baseball and volleyball

Source: Montana Recreation & Parks Assn. 2002 Conference

Objective 2.2: Increase the number of skate parks in Montana.

Action 2.2.1: Provide information to communities about skate park options, costs, insurance, management, funding and vendors.

Action 2.2.2: Involve youth in planning, fundraising and building skate park facilities.

Action 2.2.3: Consider conversion of seldom-used tennis courts to skate parks.

Action 2.2.4: Develop public-private-nonprofit partnerships for funding of skate parks.

Objective 2.3: Improve park and playground facilities for youth.

Action 2.3.1: Improve safety of playgrounds through equipment repair and upgrades.

Action 2.3.2: Provide ADA compliant playground facilities.

Objective 2.4: Provide educational and interpretive activities about wildlife, natural environment & safety.

Action 2.4.1: Present age-appropriate workshops and educational programs for youth.

Action 2.4.2: Develop and distribute educational materials about outdoor recreation.

Action 2.4.3: Sponsor youth safety classes for outdoor recreation.

Action 2.4.4: Partner with schools and youth organizations to sponsor educational programs.



Goal 3: Continue access to, and maintenance of, backcountry trails and use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine and motorized (OHV, snowmobile) recreation.

Goals 3 and 4 address trail-related issues. The BRFSS and ITRR research, along with the SCORP online survey of facility managers, demonstrated the importance of trail-related recreation activities in Montana (walking, hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, jogging, horseback riding, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling and cross-country skiing). The

2001 Montana State Trails Plan (STP) addresses many of the issues identified by Montanans and facility managers during the SCORP process. The 2002 Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan (TRSP) also addressed recreation-related issues. Top priority objectives and actions identified in the SCORP information-gathering process are listed below. The related sections of the STP and TRSP are the following: STP Issues 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10; and TRSP Sections A.4, A.5, A.7, B.1, B.2, B.3, C.2, C.6, C.7.

Objective 3.1: Obtain current data about backcountry motorized and non-motorized trail users.

Action 3.1.1: Contract a study on “OHV Recreation in Montana” (similar to the 2002 “Snowmobiling in Montana” study), to obtain good data about OHV use, economic contributions, demographics of OHV users and high priority OHV use areas and trails. Use OHV program monies to fund the study, and coordinate with OHV user groups to develop the survey questionnaire.

Action 3.1.2: Conduct a repeat of the 1994 Montana Trail Users Study, perhaps as part of the ITRR Recreation Habits of Montanans research, to obtain general data and trends about all types of trail users in Montana. Coordinate with trail user groups to develop the survey questionnaire.

Action 3.1.3: Continue the USFS National Visitor Use Monitoring System in high priority areas of each forest, gathering data about numbers of visitors by user type, season, etc.

Action 3.1.4: Involve trail user groups as partners in survey development and on-the-ground data collection.

Objective 3.2: Inventory and map all system route and user-created trails in high and medium priority use areas.

Action 3.2.1: Provide opportunities for user group volunteers to assist with inventories.

Action 3.2.2: Encourage collaborative processes to designate trail use, respecting needs of all user groups and recognizing increasing demand for both motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities.

Objective 3.3: Continue USFS and BLM travel planning for site-specific areas, with no net loss of agency recognized trail miles for any user group. (STP S-4)

Action 3.3.1: Based on trail inventories, identify and designate multiple use and non-motorized trails for recreationists to enjoy public lands, while protecting natural resources and minimizing user conflicts, with no net loss of agency recognized trail miles for any user group.

Action 3.3.2: Continue to develop partnerships to plan, sign, maintain, groom and manage trails.

Objective 3.4: Address the need to identify and designate motorized and non-motorized trail networks that cross agency and jurisdictional boundaries.

Action 3.3.1: Work with user groups to identify potential motorized trail networks to designate as discovery routes, loops and byways.

Action 3.3.2: Work with user groups to identify need for, and/or to enhance, non-motorized trail networks.

Action 3.3.3: Work with federal, state, county, tribal and nonprofit organizations to map and designate trail networks.

Action 3.3.4: Link trail networks to rural communities in order to further tourism and economic development in Montana.

Objective 3.5: Identify and designate vehicular recreation areas (VRAs, such as open play areas or motorized parks) for snowmobile and OHV recreationists.

Action 3.5.1: Identify and designate areas that will provide motorized use without significant ecological damage or aesthetic impacts on other users.

Objective 3.6: Address trail system safety and maintenance needs.

Action 3.6.1: Use RTP, OHV and Snowmobile grant programs administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for trail maintenance projects.

Action 3.6.2: Expand the Adopt-A-Trail program to encourage volunteer assistance with trail maintenance.



- Action 3.6.3: Continue public education efforts about trail user impacts (On the Right Trail, Tread Lightly, etc.).
- Action 3.6.4: Use the “OHV Recreation in Montana” study results (Action 3.1.1) to evaluate the level of funding appropriated for OHV programs from Montana gas tax.
- Action 3.6.5: Continue to install signs for designated trail routes.
- Action 3.6.6: Evaluate ways to facilitate use of the NEPA and MEPA processes that simplify project development on federal lands.
- Action 3.6.7: Create public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to address trail maintenance.
- Action 3.6.8: Evaluate the level of OHV and snowmobile fees, and the use of non-motorized trail user fees, to generate additional revenue for trails. (TRSP C.7)

Goal 4: Increase miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.

Goal 4 addresses Issue 4 from the previous chapter. As stated in the Montana State Trails Plan regarding trail supply and demand, “During the past ten years, there has been a growing interest in providing more trails in Montana’s urban areas...An ideal situation is a well-developed urban trail system, with good connecting links to more primitive trail systems on surrounding federal lands.”

Objective 4.1: Link parks and recreation/trails facility needs assessment to city and county comprehensive or growth plan development.

Action 4.1.1: Work with the Montana League of Cities & Towns (MLCT) and Montana Association of Counties (MACo) to help local planners incorporate parks and recreation needs assessments and plans into their comprehensive and growth plans.

Objective 4.2: Increase the miles of urban and rural bicycle and pedestrian trails. (STP Issues 2,4,9,12,13)

Action 4.2.1: Develop more paved trails for bicycling, roller-blading, scooters and wheelchairs.

Action 4.2.2: Develop more unpaved walking, biking and urban nature viewing trails.

Action 4.2.3: Improve safety on urban trails (lighting, landscaping, surface maintenance).

Objective 4.3: Increase access to, and miles of, rural walking, hiking, and equestrian trails. (STP Issues 1,3,4,6,7,10,11)

Action 4.3.1: Acquire access for trail expansion (land or easement acquisition, rails-to-trails, etc.).

Action 4.3.2: Develop public-private-nonprofit partnerships to construct and maintain trails.



Objective 4.4: Advocate for implementation of Montana State Trails Plan strategies and actions. (STP Issue 10)

Action 4.4.1: Assist with public education about strategies contained in the Trails Plan.

Action 4.4.2: Develop public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to implement the Trails Plan.

Goal 5: Enhance access for water-based recreation activities (fishing, boating).

Goal 5 addresses Issue 5 from the previous chapter. Fishing and boating are important activities for Montana residents and nonresident visitors alike. As use has increased, demand for access to additional sites and facilities also has increased. The Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan 2003-2007, Objective B.1, addresses actions to balance the needs of natural asset protection with the needs of resident and nonresident users. In that context, the following objectives and actions address increased demand for fishing and boating facilities.

Objective 5.1: Increase access to fishing sites in Montana.

Action 5.1.1: Implement the Fishing Access element of the FWP “Fisheries Beyond 2000” Plan.

Action 5.1.2: Partner with private and nonprofit landowners and organizations to combine resources for fishing access acquisition.

Objective 5.2: Enhance boating facilities in Montana (ramps, launch sites, docks).

Action 5.2.1: Partner with private and nonprofit entities (concessions, tribes, landowners) to provide additional public access for boaters.

Action 5.2.2: Implement upgrades to existing boating facilities (size, quality, surfacing, etc.).

Action 5.2.3: Continue to increase communication and cooperation between state, federal, tribal and local agencies to address boating facility issues.

Objective 5.3: Encourage ADA improvements for water-based recreation activities.

Action 5.3.1: Enhance ADA access to boating facilities (parking, pathways).

Action 5.3.2: Provide ADA-compliant restrooms at water-based recreation facilities.



Goal 6: Improve access for wildlife-based recreation activities (hunting, wildlife viewing).

This goal addresses Issue 6 from the previous chapter. Access issues are an important component of outdoor recreation in Montana. Objective B.2 of the Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan 2003-2007, and Issues 1, 3 and 4 of the Montana State Trails Plan, contain strategies and actions to address access issues.

Objective 6.1: Increase enrollment in the block management program, and evaluate increased payments to landowners as an incentive to enroll lands in the program.

Action 6.1.1: Identify priority land areas needed for hunting and fishing access, determine ownership.

Action 6.1.2: Seek landowner cooperation to enroll lands in the block management program.

Action 6.1.3: Seek funding to increase payments to landowners for costs associated with public access (fencing repair, site restoration, game habitat, etc.).

Objective 6.2: Expand access for wildlife-based recreation on public and private lands.

Action 6.2.1: Support existing efforts of access management task forces to acquire access.

Action 6.2.2: Maintain wilderness and backcountry trails for use by sportsmen on foot and horses.

Objective 6.3: Enhance Montana wetlands for wildlife-based recreation.

Action 6.3.1: Improve the condition of existing wetlands to support fish and wildlife.

Action 6.3.2: Identify additional wetlands areas for fish and wildlife habitat development.



Objective 6.4: Enhance interpretation and education about wildlife assets in Montana.

Action 6.4.1: Continue to provide interpretive signs and materials at key wildlife viewing areas.

Action 6.4.2: Install signs to indicate sportsmen's areas, access points and use limitations.

Action 6.4.3: Evaluate fish and wildlife regulations for clarity and user-friendliness.

Goal 7: Implement ADA improvements to recreation facilities and sites.

Goal 7 addresses Issue 7 from the previous chapter. More than 71,500 Montana residents have a physical disability (2000 U.S. Census), and as the population continues to age, the number will continue to grow annually. ADA compliance at outdoor recreation facilities is critical to these individuals' ability to access them.

Objective 7.1: Increase the number of recreation facilities that are ADA compliant, focusing primarily on settings in or near urban areas.

Action 7.1.1: Improve surfacing (e.g., paving) on parking areas, RV pads, pathways and trails.

Action 7.1.2: Upgrade restrooms to be ADA compliant (doorways, commodes, sinks, lighting).

Action 7.1.3: Where possible, remove impediments to accessibility at primitive and remote sites.

Action 7.1.4: Offer accessible hunting opportunities (e.g., duck blinds) for handicapped sportsmen.

Action 7.1.5: Provide ADA compliant park benches and picnic tables.



Goal 8: Build awareness of, and participation in, the SCORP process and LWCF program among local, tribal, and state recreation facility managers and local communities.

This goal addresses Issue 8 from the previous chapter. Implementation of the SCORP actions depends on a broad awareness and endorsement of the plan. Communication with stakeholders is critical to building support for outdoor recreation programs and facilities.

Objective 8.1: Adopt the SCORP as Montana's official outdoor recreation strategy.

Action 8.1.1: Present SCORP to SCORP Advisory Committee for adoption.

Action 8.1.2: Present SCORP to FWP Department and its advisory committees (STAC, OHV, RTP, Snowmobile) for adoption.

Action 8.1.3: Present SCORP to Governor for official endorsement.

Action 8.1.4: Send final SCORP to the National Park Service.

Objective 8.2: Build awareness among local facility managers and stakeholders about the SCORP document.

Action 8.2.1: Notify stakeholders and media of SCORP completion and adoption.

Action 8.2.2: Print and distribute copies of SCORP to local facility managers and other stakeholders.

Action 8.2.3: Encourage stakeholder groups to officially adopt and endorse SCORP.

Objective 8.3: Provide information to stakeholders about the LWCF program, its role in the SCORP and in state, local, and tribal outdoor recreation planning and facility development.

Action 8.3.1: Include LWCF information packets with copies of the SCORP sent to stakeholders.

Action 8.3.2: Sponsor SCORP and LWCF information workshops in each region, and at annual meetings of the Montana Recreation & Parks Assn. (MRPA), the Montana League of Cities & Towns (MLCT), and the Montana Association of Counties (MACo). Provide information not only about LWCF, but also other resources available for outdoor recreation facilities and programs.

Action 8.3.3: Assign a FWP intern to compile an annual report summarizing all LWCF state and locally sponsored projects, and distribute to stakeholders.

Objective 8.4: Complete the outdoor recreation facility inventory of public and private facilities.

Action 8.4.1: In 2003-2004, conduct extended online survey of recreation facility managers to complete statewide outdoor recreation facility inventory. Add motorized parks and play areas to inventory list.

Action 8.4.2: Work with the University of Montana to include the 2002 outdoor recreation facility inventory in the Montana Tourism & Recreation Data Center online database.

Action 8.4.3: Notify public facility managers of the database, and request that they review and update it (via online password-protected access).

Action 8.4.4: Work with the Montana Department of Commerce and business trade associations to develop an inventory for privately owned facilities (through Travel Montana, Chambers of Commerce, Montana Ski Areas Association, Montana Golf Association, etc.), and include it in the Montana Tourism & Recreation Data Center online database.

Objective 8.5: Expand the planning team and process for development of the 2008-2012 SCORP document.

Action 8.5.1: Begin the next SCORP planning process in early 2005, and work with the Montana Department of Commerce and the Montana Tourism & Recreation Initiative (MTRI) inter-agency planning group to coordinate the SCORP with the 2008-2012 Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan.

Action 8.5.2: Provide additional resources for a statewide inventory of public and private outdoor recreation facilities, and for consumer demand research.

Action 8.5.3: Provide more opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the SCORP planning process.

Goal 9: Create sufficient funding and stable resources to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.

This goal addresses Issue 9 from the previous chapter. Funding for outdoor recreation facilities at state and local levels has been stagnant or declining. Strategic partnerships and increased or additional revenue sources are necessary to provide adequate funding for facility management and maintenance (see Appendix D). Recreation revenues from nonresident visitors can play a key role in funding (see Montana Tourism & Recreation Plan 2003-2007 Objectives C.2, C.4, C.6 and C.7).



Objective 9.1: Identify additional or enhanced funding mechanisms to support outdoor recreation facilities.

Action 9.1.1: Develop public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to enhance recreation funding and facility management.

Action 9.1.2: Evaluate implementation and enhancement of user fees and fee demo programs to support recreation facility management and maintenance.

Action 9.1.3: Evaluate ways to increase revenues from nonresident visitors, especially at popular recreation sites and facilities in peak season, while maintaining affordability for residents.

Action 9.1.4: Seek opportunities for private sector concessions to increase revenues for recreation facilities (food & beverage, retail, guided services, instruction, etc.).

Action 9.1.5: Encourage projects that have linkages to the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commemoration; in order to benefit from Bicentennial partnerships and funding opportunities.

Action 9.1.6: Encourage the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Congress to collaborate and institute a special category of LWCF matching fund requirement (i.e., 75% federal/25% local match) for economically challenged & sparsely populated areas.

Objective 9.2: Enhance staffing to manage outdoor recreation facilities.

Action 9.2.1: Identify partnerships to increase staffing levels.

Action 9.2.2: Use volunteer and tourist resources to enhance facility staffing.

Objective 9.3: Address safety issues related to outdoor recreation facilities.

Action 9.3.1: Provide information regarding insurance options to recreation facility managers.

Action 9.3.2: Evaluate Montana laws regarding liability caps for public recreation facilities, and support changes if needed.

Action 9.3.3: Provide information to recreation facility managers about ways to deal with vandalism.

Goal 10: Refine and streamline the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) local program and grant process in Montana to be as user friendly as possible.



Goal 10 addresses Issue 10 from the previous chapter. Recreation facility managers expressed a desire for a simplified LWCF grant application and community needs assessment process. While some requirements must be maintained to meet federal guidelines, some adjustments are possible to facilitate greater participation in the program among Montana's communities (see Chapter 6, and section 1.3 of Chapter 1 for LWCF information).

Objective 10.1: Refine the Montana LWCF local grant application forms.

Action 10.1.1: Seek input from previous LWCF grant applicants and recipients about the grant application process.

Action 10.1.2: Consolidate duplicative questions, eliminate unnecessary questions, clarify LWCF grant and match budget table.

Objective 10.2: Simplify the needs assessment and public input process for LWCF grant applications.

Action 10.2.1: Seek input about improvements and simplification of the community input and survey process from LWCF grant applicants, recent LWCF Selection Committee members, recent LWCF grant recipients, and the University of Montana.

Action 10.2.2: Develop and list alternatives to the current local needs survey instrument that will be allowable in determining local facility needs. These alternatives might make use of information such as county-level 2002 BRFSS survey results, state and national average number of facilities per capita, and local comprehensive or growth plans that identify parks and recreation needs.

Action 10.2.3: Expand the methods that can be used by communities to demonstrate need for outdoor recreation opportunities.

Objective 10.3: Enhance the technical assistance provided by Montana State Parks to local grant applicants.

Action 10.3.1: Provide sample grant applications on the State Parks web site.

Action 10.3.2: Provide a toll-free telephone number and staff person for applicants to call for assistance.

Action 10.3.3: Conduct regional LWCF grant writing and administration workshops, to answer questions and assist potential and new applicants and recipients.

Action 10.3.4: Notify all outdoor recreation stakeholders and eligible grant applicant organizations about the enhanced technical assistance program.

Objective 10.4: Refine the OPSP and grant-application scoring process for LWCF grants.

Action 10.4.1: Emphasize projects that are consistent with the goals in the SCORP document. Evaluate the maximum grant award amounts based on top priority project types (e.g. pools).

Action 10.4.2: Emphasize regional priorities as identified by facility inventory, needs assessment, BRFSS and socio-economic differences. Refine emphasis in grant application scoring to consider county and/or regional needs as allowable in lieu of local assessment if county and regional needs are consistent with local project needs.

Action 10.4.3: Repeat the outdoor recreation survey module on the Montana BRFSS with refined questions every 3-5 years to obtain updated information and trends at the county, regional and state levels. The survey must be conducted far enough in advance so as to yield data in time for the SCORP revision process.

Action 10.4.4: Review and refine the outdoor recreation survey module on the Montana BRFSS as needed before submitting to DPHS as a state-added module candidate.

5.3 OPSP: The Link Between SCORP and the LWCF Program

The priorities for the LWCF program are established based on the findings and strategies identified in this SCORP document, and that prioritization is implemented through the Open Project Selection Process (OPSP).

According to Chapter 660.4 of the LWCF Grants Manual, each state must develop a priority rating system for selecting projects that ensures the fair and equitable evaluation of all LWCF applications. This system is known as the Open Project Selection Process.

There are actually two different selection processes. The first is used for projects submitted by political subdivisions of the State of Montana (cities, counties, park districts, school districts) and Sovereign Indian Nations, which is titled the Locally Sponsored Open Project Selection Process. The second is used for state sponsored projects from FWP and other state agencies, which is titled the State Sponsored Project Selection Process. Both processes are contained within the OPSP.

To remain current, the Open Project Selection Process may be modified slightly each year to meet the changing demands of the program. Each change in the OPSP must be reviewed and approved by the National Park Service.

The current Open Project Selection Process is not included in this document, but is posted on the FWP web site <http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/parks/landw/2003/default.asp>. Questions and comments should be directed to:

Land & Water Conservation Fund
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-3750



5.4 Implementation Action Table

Many objectives and strategic actions have been detailed in this chapter. Please note that not all actions are of equal priority. The Implementation Action Tables on the next four pages lists all 36 objectives and 110 actions, and assigns a priority to each action (priority 1, 2 or 3), with approximate implementation dates and partners. Actions listed as priority 1 should begin as soon as possible. Priority 2 actions should receive less emphasis, or begin later, and priority 3 actions have lower emphasis still. Some actions are ongoing from current or previous efforts, and are assigned a priority based on the planning team and SCORP Advisory Committee recommendations of relative importance to address the issues detailed in Chapter 4. The recommended timeline has been identified by shaded boxes under each of the five years. The darker shading indicates a more intense level of activity during that year for a particular action.

These tables are shown just as they appeared in the 2003 – 2007 SCORP to demonstrate the benchmarks many in the outdoor recreation field hoped would be attained over this period of time. It should be evident to everyone involved that most of these ambitious goals and objectives were not met. It will take the concerted efforts of numerous private and public entities over the next several years to implement these objectives and actions. The steps you take today to reach these goals will contribute to the quality of life for every Montana citizen for years to come. Thank you for your efforts!



SCORP Implementation Action									
Objective			Timing					Partners	
Action	Priority	03	04	05	06	07	(Lead, Assist)		
Goal 1: Increase the quantity and quality of local swimming facilities.									
1.1: Upgrade and maintain existing swimming pools in local communities.									
1.1.1 Evaluate provisions of Montana's park district option tax to determine if changes would facilitate better local funding for pools.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, Leg		
1.1.2 Seek private and nonprofit partners (e.g., concessions, competitions, etc.) for funding of pool facilities.	2						City, Sch, Biz, NP		
1.1.3 Investigate ways to lengthen seasons of use for community swimming pools.	1						MRPA, FWP, City, Biz		
1.2: Construct new swimming pools and water parks in communities where needed.									
1.2.1 Evaluate the feasibility of a loan program to assist communities in financing pools.	1						MRPA, MLCT		
1.2.2 Provide ADA compliant facilities for therapeutic recreation.	2						City, Trb, Biz, Np		
1.2.3 Create public-private-nonprofit partnerships to fund and manage swimming pools.	2						City, Trb, Biz, Np		
Goal 2: Enhance local recreation facilities for youth.									
2.1: Enhance local playfields (baseball, softball, football, soccer, track).									
2.1.1 Provide resources to upgrade and maintain playfields (lighting, surfacing, seating).	1						FWP, Sch, City, Biz		
2.1.2 Develop partnerships for land acquisition and management of playfields.	2						Sch, City, Biz, Co, NP		
2.2: Increase the number of skate parks in Montana.									
2.2.1 Provide information to communities about skate park options, costs, insurance, management, funding and vendors.	1						MRPA, MLCT, Biz		
2.2.2 Involve youth in planning, fundraising and building skate park facilities.	1						City, PD, Sch, Vol		
2.2.3 Consider conversion of seldom-used tennis courts to skate parks.	2						City, PD, Sch		
2.2.4 Develop public-private-nonprofit partnerships for funding of skate parks.	1						City, PD, Sch, Biz, Vol, NP		
2.3: Improve park and playground facilities for youth.									
2.3.1 Improve safety of playgrounds through equipment repair and upgrades.	1						Sch, City, Biz, NP		
2.3.2 Provide ADA compliant playground facilities.	2						Sch, City, Co, Trb, Biz		
2.4: Provide educational and interpretive activities about wildlife, natural environment & safety.									
2.4.1 Present age-appropriate workshops and educational programs for youth.	2						FA, SA, Sch, Biz, Vol		
2.4.2 Develop and distribute educational materials about outdoor recreation.	3						FA, SA, Sch, Biz		
2.4.3 Sponsor youth safety classes for outdoor recreation.	2						FA, SA, Sch, Biz, Vol		
2.4.4 Partner with schools and youth organizations to sponsor educational programs.	2						FA, SA, Sch, Biz, Vol		
Goal 3: Continue access to, and maintenance of, backcountry trails/use areas for hiking, biking, skiing, equine and motorized recreation.									
3.1: Obtain current data about backcountry motorized and non-motorized trail users.									
3.1.1 Contract BBER to do a study on "OHV Recreation in Montana".	1						FWP, OHV, BBER, NP		
3.1.2 Conduct a repeat of the 1994 Montana Trail Users Study.	2						FWP, STAC, ITRR		
3.1.3 Continue the USFS National Visitor Use Monitoring System in high priority areas of each forest.	1						USFS, Vol		
3.1.4 Involve trail user groups as partners in survey development and on-the-ground data collection.	1						FWP, FA, Trb, NP, Vol		
3.2: Inventory and map all system route trails in high and medium priority use areas.									
3.2.1 Provide opportunities for user group volunteers to assist with inventories.	1						FA, NP, Vol		
3.2.2 Encourage collaborative processes to designate trail use, respecting needs of all user groups, & recognizing increasing demand.	1						FA, SA, Co, NP, Trb		
3.3: Continue USFS and BLM travel planning, with no net loss of agency recognized trail miles for any user group.									
3.3.1 Identify/designate multiple use & non-motorized trails/areas, while protecting natural resources/minimizing user conflicts.	1						FA, NP, STAC		
3.3.2 Continue to develop partnerships to plan, sign, maintain, groom and manage trails.	2						FA, NP, Vol, Trb, Biz		
3.4: Address the need to identify and designate motorized and non-motorized trail networks that cross jurisdictional boundaries.									
3.4.1 Work with user groups to identify potential motorized trail networks to designate as discovery routes, loops and byways.	1						FWP, FA, Co, NP, Trb		
3.4.2 Work with user groups to identify need for, and/or to enhance, non-motorized trail networks.	2						FWP, FA, Co, NP, Trb		
3.4.3 Work with federal, state, county, tribal and nonprofit organizations to map and designate trail networks.	2						FWP, FA, Co, NP, Trb		
3.4.4 Link trail networks to rural communities in order to further tourism and economic development in Montana.	2						FWP, DOC, MEDA, FA, NP, Trb		
3.5: Identify & designate vehicular recreation areas (play areas/motorized parks) for snowmobile & OHV recreationists.									
3.5.1 Identify/designate areas that will provide motorized use without significant ecological damage/aesthetic impacts on other users.	2						FA, NP, FWP		

SCORP Implementation Action Table							
Objective Action	Priority	Timing					Partners (Lead, Assist)
		03	04	05	06	07	
3.6: Address trail system safety and maintenance needs.							
3.6.1 Use RTP, OHV and Snowmobile grant programs administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for trail maintenance projects.	1						FWP, NP, FA
3.6.2 Expand the Adopt-A-Trail program to encourage volunteer assistance with trail maintenance.	2						FA, FWP, NP, Vol
3.6.3 Continue public education efforts about trail user impacts (On the Right Trail, Tread Lightly, etc.).	1						FWP, FA, NP
3.6.4 Use the "OHV Recreation in Montana" study results to evaluate level of funding appropriated for OHV programs from gas tax.	2						FWP, NP, FA, Vol, BBER
3.6.5 Continue to install signs for designated trail routes.	2						SA, FA, NP, Vol
3.6.6 Evaluate ways to facilitate use of the NEPA and MEPA processes that simplify project development on federal lands.	2						FWP, FA, NP, Trb
3.6.7 Create public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to address trail maintenance.	2						SA, FA, Trb, NP, Vol, Biz
3.6.8 Evaluate the level of OHV/snowmobile fees, & use of non-motorized trail user fees, to generate additional revenue for trails.	3						FWP, FA, NP, Leg
Goal 4: Increase miles and maintenance of urban and rural trails.							
4.1: Link parks and recreation/trails facility needs assessment to city and county comprehensive or growth plan development.							
4.1.1 Work w/ MLCT/MACo to help local planners include parks/rec'n needs assessments/plans into comprehensive/growth plans.	1						MRPA, MLCT, MACo, FWP, PD
4.2: Increase the miles of urban and rural bicycle and pedestrian trails.							
4.2.1 Develop more paved trails for bicycling, roller-blading, scooters and wheelchairs.	2						City, Co, Trb, Biz, SA, FA
4.2.2 Develop more unpaved walking, biking and urban nature viewing trails.	3						City, Co, Trb, Biz, SA, FA
4.2.3 Improve safety on urban trails (lighting, landscaping, surface maintenance).	2						City, Co, Trb, Biz
4.3: Increase access to, and miles of, rural walking, hiking, and equestrian trails.							
4.3.1 Acquire access for trail expansion (land or easement acquisition, rails-to-trails, etc.).	2						SA, FA, Co, NP, Trb
4.3.2 Develop public-private-nonprofit partnerships to construct and maintain trails.	2						SA, FA, Co, NP, Trb, Biz, USFS
4.4: Advocate for implementation of Montana State Trails Plan strategies and actions.							
4.4.1 Assist with public education about strategies contained in the Trails Plan.	2						SA, FA, NP, Trb
4.4.2 Develop public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to implement the Trails Plan.	2						SA, FA, NP, Trb, Biz
Goal 5: Enhance access for water-based recreation activities (fishing, boating).							
5.1: Increase access to fishing sites in Montana.							
5.1.1 Implement the Fishing Access element of the FWP "Fisheries Beyond 2000" Plan.	2						FWP, FA, LO, NP
5.1.2 Partner with private and nonprofit landowners and organizations to combine resources for fishing access acquisition.	2						FWP, FA, LO, NP
5.2: Enhance boating facilities in Montana (ramps, launch sites, docks).							
5.2.1 Partner with private and nonprofit entities (concessions, tribes, landowners) to provide additional public access for boaters.	2						FWP, USFS, FA, LO Trb, NP, Co, Biz
5.2.2 Implement upgrades to existing boating facilities (size, quality, surfacing, etc.).	1						FWP, USFS, FA, SA, Biz, Co
5.2.3 Continue to increase communication/cooperation between state/federal/tribal/local agencies to address boating facility issues.	1						SA, FA, Trb, LO, NP
5.3: Encourage ADA improvements for water-based recreation activities.							
5.3.1 Enhance ADA access to boating facilities (parking, pathways).	2						USFS, SA, FA, Biz, Co
5.3.2 Provide ADA-compliant restrooms at water-based recreation facilities.	2						USFS, SA, FA, Biz, Co
Goal 6: Improve access for wildlife-based recreation activities (hunting, wildlife viewing)							
6.1: Increase enrollment in the block management program; evaluate increased payments to landowners.							
6.1.1 Identify priority land areas needed for hunting and fishing access, determine ownership.	1						FWP, LO, FA
6.1.2 Seek landowner cooperation to enroll lands in the block management program.	1						FWP, LO
6.1.3 Seek funding to increase payments to landowners for costs associated with public access.	2						FWP, LO, Leg
6.2: Expand access for wildlife-based recreation on public and private lands.							
6.2.1 Support existing efforts of access management task forces to acquire access.	1						SA, FA, Trb, NP, Co, LO
6.2.2 Maintain wilderness and backcountry trails for use by sportsmen on foot and horses.	2						USFS, FA, NP, Co, Vol
6.3: Enhance Montana wetlands for wildlife based recreation.							
6.3.1 Improve the condition of existing wetlands to support fish & wildlife.	2						FWP, DNRC, FWS, MWC, NP
6.3.2 Identify additional wetlands areas for fish & wildlife habitat development.	3						MWC, LO, DNRC, FWS
6.4: Enhance interpretation and education about wildlife assets in Montana							
6.4.1 Continue to provide interpretive signs and materials at key wildlife viewing areas.	3						FWP, FWS, NP
6.4.2 Install signs to indicate sportsmen's areas, access points and use limitations.	2						FWP, MDT, LO, FA
6.4.3 Evaluate fish and wildlife regulations for clarity and user-friendliness.	3						FWP, NP, LO

SCORP Implementation Action Table							
Objective Action	Priority	Timing					Partners (Lead, Assist)
		03	04	05	06	07	
Goal 7: Implement ADA improvements to recreation facilities and sites where needed							
7.1: Increase the number of recreation facilities that are ADA compliant, focusing primarily on settings in or near urban areas							
7.1.1 Improve surfacing (e.g., paving) on parking areas, RV pads, pathways and trails.	2						SA, FA, Biz, City, Co, USFS
7.1.2 Upgrade restrooms to be ADA compliant (doorways, commodes, sinks, lighting).	2						SA, FA, Biz, City, Co, USFS
7.1.3 Where possible, remove impediments to accessibility at primitive and remote sites.	3						SA, FA, Co, USFS
7.1.4 Offer accessible hunting opportunities (e.g., duck blinds) for handicapped sportsmen.	3						SA, FA, USFS
7.1.5 Provide ADA compliant park benches and picnic tables.	2						SA, FA, City, Co, Biz, PD, USFS
Goal 8: Build awareness of, and participation in, the SCORP process and LWCF program among recreation facility managers.							
8.1: Adopt the SCORP as Montana's official outdoor recreation strategy.							
8.1.1 Present SCORP to SCORP Advisory Committee for adoption.	1						FWP
8.1.2 Present SCORP to FWP Department and its advisory committees (STAC, OHV, RTP, Snowmo) for adoption.	1						FWP
8.1.3 Present SCORP to Governor for official endorsement.	1						FWP, GO
8.1.4 Send final SCORP to the National Park Service.	1						FWP, NPS
8.2: Build awareness among local facility managers and stakeholders about the SCORP document.							
8.2.1 Notify stakeholders and media of SCORP completion and adoption.	1						FWP
8.2.2 Print and distribute copies of SCORP to local facility managers and other stakeholders.	1						FWP
8.2.3 Encourage stakeholder groups to officially adopt and endorse SCORP.	1						FWP
8.3: Provide information to stakeholders about the LWCF program, its role in the SCORP							
8.3.1 Include LWCF information packets with copies of the SCORP sent to stakeholders.	1						FWP
8.3.2 Sponsor SCORP & LWCF information workshops in each region, and at annual meetings of MRPA, MLCT, & MACo.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, MACo
8.3.3 Assign a FWP intern to compile an annual report summarizing all LWCF state & locally sponsored projects & distribute	1						FWP
8.4: Complete the outdoor recreation facility inventory of public and private facilities.							
8.4.1 In 2003-2004, conduct extended online survey of recreation facility managers to complete statewide recreation facility inventory.	1						FWP, Con, MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Trb
8.4.2 Work with UM to include outdoor recreation facility inventory in MT Tourism & Recreation Data Center online database.	2						FWP, ITRR
8.4.3 Notify public facility managers of database, & request that they review and update it (via online password-protected access).	2						FWP, SA, FA
8.4.4 Work w/ MT DOC & business trade associations to inventory privately owned facilities & include in online database.	2						FWP, DOC, MTC
8.5: Expand the planning team and process for development of the 2008-2012 SCORP document.							
8.5.1 Work w/ MT DOC & MTRI to coordinate SCORP with 2008-2012 Montana Tourism & Recreation Strategic Plan.	1						FWP, DOC, MTRI
8.5.2 Provide add'l resources for statewide inventory of public/private outdoor recreation facilities, & consumer demand research.	2						FWP
8.5.3 Provide more opportunities for stakeholder involvement in the SCORP planning process.	1						FWP, SA, FA, Trb, MRPA
Goal 9: Create sufficient funding and stable resources to manage and maintain outdoor recreation facilities.							
9.1: Identify additional or enhanced funding mechanisms to support outdoor recreation facilities.							
9.1.1 Develop public-private-nonprofit-tribal partnerships to enhance recreation funding and facility management.	1						SA, FA, Trb, NP, Biz, USFS
9.1.2 Evaluate implementation/enhancement of user fees/fee demo programs to support recreation facility management/maintenance.	2						SA, FA, Leg, NP
9.1.3 Evaluate ways to increase revenues from nonresident visitors, especially at popular recreation sites & facilities in peak season.	2						SA, FA, DOC, MTC, Biz
9.1.4 Seek opportunities for private sector concessions to increase revenues for recreation facilities.	2						SA, FA, DOC, Biz, USFS
9.1.5 Encourage projects w/ linkages to Lewis & Clark Bicentennial to benefit from partnerships/funding opportunities.	3						FWP, L&C, FA, USFS
9.1.6 Encourage U.S. DOI/Congress to lower LWCF matching fund requirem't for economically challenged/sparsely populated areas.	2						FWP, NPS, MRPA, MLCT, MACo
9.2: Enhance staffing to manage outdoor recreation facilities.							
9.2.1 Identify partnerships to increase staffing levels.	2						SA, FA, NP, Trb, Biz, Vol
9.2.2 Use volunteer and tourist resources to enhance facility staffing.	2						SA, FA, NP, Vol
9.3: Address safety issues related to outdoor recreation facilities.							
9.3.1 Provide information regarding insurance options to recreation facility managers.	1						MRPA, MLCT, MACo, MTC, Sch, Biz
9.3.2 Evaluate Montana laws regarding liability caps for public recreation facilities, and support changes if needed.	2						MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Leg, Sch, Biz
9.3.3 Provide information to recreation facility managers about ways to deal with vandalism.	2						MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Sch, Co

SCORP Implementation Action Table										
Objective Action	Priority	Timing					Partners (Lead, Assist)			
		03	04	05	06	07				
Goal 10: Refine and streamline the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) local program and grant process										
10.1: Refine the Montana LWCF local grant application forms.										
10.1.1 Seek input from previous LWCF grant applicants and recipients about the grant application process.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Trb, Sch			
10.1.2 Consolidate duplicative questions, eliminate unnecessary questions, clarify LWCF grant and match budget table.	1						FWP, MRPA, Sch			
10.2: Simplify the needs assessment and public input process for LWCF grant applications.										
10.2.1 Seek input about improvements and simplification of the community input process.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Trb, Sch			
10.2.2 Develop & list alternatives to local needs survey that will be allowable in determining local facility needs.	1						FWP, MRPA, Sch			
10.2.3 Expand methods that can be used by communities to demonstrate need for outdoor recreation opportunities.	1						FWP, MRPA, Sch			
10.3: Enhance the technical assistance provided by Montana State Parks to local grant applicants.										
10.3.1 Provide sample grant applications on the State Parks web site.	2						FWP			
10.3.2 Provide a toll-free telephone number for applicants to call for assistance.	3						FWP			
10.3.3 Conduct regional LWCF grant writing and administration workshops.	1						FWP			
10.3.4 Notify all outdoor recreation stakeholders & eligible grant applicant organizations about the technical assistance program.	1						FWP, MRPA, MLCT, MACo, Trb, Sch			
10.4: Refine the OPSP and grant-application scoring process for LWCF grants.										
10.4.1 Emphasize projects consistent w/ goals in SCORP document. Evaluate grant award amounts based on top priority project types.	1						FWP			
10.4.2 Emphasize identified regional priorities & refine scoring to consider county/regional needs in lieu of local assessment.	1						FWP			
10.4.3 Repeat MT BRFSS outdoor recreation survey module every 3-5 years; obtain updated information/trends.	2						FWP, DPHHS			
10.4.4 Review/refine the outdoor recreation survey module on the Montana BRFSS as needed.	2						FWP, DPHHS, CDC			

Action Table Key to Codes			
BBER	Bureau of Business/Economic Devlpmt	MEDA	Montana Economic Developers Association
Biz	Private Sector Business	L&C	Montana Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Commission
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	MLCT	Montana League of Cities & Towns
CDC	Center for Disease Control	MRPA	Montana Recreation & Parks Association
City	City/Communities	MTC	Montana Tourism Coalition
Co	County	MTRI	Montana Tourism & Recreation Initiative
Con	Contracted Service	MWC	Montana Wetlands Council
DNRC	MT Dept of Natural Resources & Conservation	NP	Non-profit organizations
DOC	Montana Dept. of Commerce	NPS	National Park Service
DPHHS	MT Dept. of Public Health & Human Services	OHV	State OHV Advisory Committee
FA	Federal Agency	PD	Park District
FWP	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	RTP	State Recreation Trails Advisory Committee
FWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	SA	Montana State/Agency/Dept
GO	Montana Governor's Office	Sch	Schools/School Districts
ITRR	UM Institute for Tourism & Recreation Research	Snomo	State Snowmobile Advisory Committee
Leg	Montana Legislature	STAC	State Trails Advisory Committee
LO	Land Owner	Trb	American Indian Tribes
MACo	Montana Association of Counties	USFS	Forest Service
MDT	Montana Dept of Transportation	Vol	Volunteers